

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. By this amendment, claims 1-7 are provisionally elected and claims 8-19 have been provisionally unelected with traverse. Additionally, claim 3 has been amended to correct a minor typographical error.

Restriction Requirement and Election

In the Office Action, the Examiner requires a restriction between Group I claims (1-7), classified in class 324, subclass 758, Group II claims (8-14) classified in class 324, subclass 758 and Group III claims (15-19) classified in class 702, subclass 43.

Election and Traverse

Applicants provisionally elect Group I (claims 1-7) for prosecution in the present application and provisionally withdraw Group II and Group III. However, Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement and requests consideration of the claims as submitted.

The Restriction Requirement Should Be Withdrawn

The Group II claims have been classified in the same class and subclass as Group I claims. Applicants respectfully submit that restriction between Group I and Group II is inappropriate for at least the reasons that the claims of Groups I and II are not sufficiently independent and distinct to warrant restriction. The restriction requirement cites the preamble to claims 1 and 8 as a basis for restriction. However, Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed inventions are best understood from the claim limitations and further submit that an inspection of the claim elements will reveal connections between the inventions claimed by Group I and Group II claims sufficient to require withdrawal of the restriction requirement.

For example, independent claims 1 and 8 commonly require computations associated with fiducial plate deflection, probe card deflection and probe card fixture deflection. Further, dependent claims 5 and 11 both require acquiring image data associated with a fiducial plate and measuring deflection of the fiducial plate. Applicants respectfully submit that sufficient similarities exist in the subject matter to allow a search and examination of the

combined Group I and Group II claims to be made without serious burden. Therefore, for at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the restriction between Group I and Group II claims should be withdrawn.

The Group III claims have been classified in class 702, subclass 43. Applicants respectfully submit that the Group III claims be reclassified in class 324, subclass 758 based on the subject matter recited in the elements of the claim. Applicants respectfully submit that the inventions are not sufficiently independent and distinct to warrant restriction and that certain elements of the claims of Group III are found in similar form in the claims of Group III. For example, claim 15 requires causing a apparatus to compute planarity effects due to fiducial plate deflection, combine planarity effects due to probe card deflection and due to probe card fixture deflection and calculate a load compensated planarity for said probe card. Certain similar elements can be found in claim 1. Further, certain elements of claims 16, 17, 18 and 19 can be found in substantially similar form in claims 2, 4, 5 and 6, respectively.

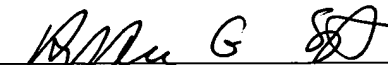
Applicants respectfully submit that sufficient similarities exist in the subject matter to allow a search and examination of the combined Group I and Group III claims to be made without serious burden. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the restriction between Group I and Group III claims should be withdrawn.

For at least the reasons stated above, Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement and request consideration of claims 1-19 as amended.

The Commissioner for Patents is authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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